

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /092 W

----- 048845

R 051551Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3748

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, SS, MO, AG, MR, NI

SCBJE: FMG ANNOUNCES RECOGNITION POLISIRIO RIGHT TO SELF DETERMIN-
ATION

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 2535, B. 75 LAGOS 8026, C 75 NOUAKCHOTT 1476

1. RETURNING FROM ADDIS OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING MARCH 1, MEA
COMMISSIONER GARBA TOLD NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT THAT FMG RECOGNIZES
POLISARIO'S RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION AND THAT IT SHOULD BE
PERMITTED TO CAMPAIGN ON ITS OWN FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION.
GARBA SAID FMG BELIEVED IT APPROPRIATE TO EXPRESS THIS POSITION

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DESPITE FACT THAT OAU HAD NOT ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION POLISARIO MOVEMENT.

2. COMMENT: IN HIS AIRPORT APPEARANCE, GARBA GLOSED OVER OTHER BUSINESS AT ADDIS MEET (HE FAILED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT DISCUSSIONS ON SOMALIA IMBROGLIO), FOCUSING ATTENTION ALMOST ENTIRELY ON WESTERN SAHARA AND THUS GIVING THAT ISSUE AURA OF IMPORTANCE FOR NIGERIA. GARBA APPEARED TO WANT TO GIVE IMPRESSION TO NIGERIA-WATCHING PUBLIC THAT FMG DELEGATION TOOK STRONGER STANCE AT ADDIS THAN IT ACTUALLY DID. HE TALKED ABOUT "RECOGNIZING" POLASARIO'S RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION (IMPLYING SUPPORT FOR POLASARIO AS A LEGITIMATE LIBERATION MOVEMENT) BUT DID NOT STATE THAT FMG FORMALLY ACCREDITS THAT BODY WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENT (OR GOVERNMENT) STATUS (THEREBY AVOIDING OPEN CONFRONTATION WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA). KEY CONCEPT FOR NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS SELF-DETERMINATION. NIGERIA MORE AND MORE SEES ITSELF AS LEADING CHAMPION OF

FINAL THRUST TO RID AFRICA OF COLONIAL VESTIGES. FMG HAS CONTINUALLY HARPED ON SLOGAN OF SELF-DETERMINATION AS GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR RESOLVING WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE, EVEN AFTER LARAKI/MOUKNESS VISIT HERE LAST SUMMER AND DESPITE ITS DIFFERENCE WITH ALGERIA. AFTER INCONCLUSIVE OAU DEBATE ON THE MATTER AND ON EVEN OF WHAT MANY SEE AS MAJOR DRIVE FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, FMG APPARENTLY FEELS NEED AGAIN TO MAKE CLEAR ITS ADVOCACY AND THEREBY REASSERT ITS CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP OF SELF-DETERMINATION CAUSE.
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